

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025**

**H**

**1**

**HOUSE BILL 1210**

Short Title: Firearm & Conflict De-escalation Training Act. (Public)

---

Sponsors: Representative Budd.

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

---

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

---

May 5, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE PROVISION OF FIREARM SAFETY AND DE-ESCALATION INSTRUCTION TO CERTAIN STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL; TO REQUIRE CLERKS OF COURT TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE SEARCH OF MENTAL HEALTH RECORDS WHEN PRESENTED WITH A RELEASE FORM SIGNED BY AN APPLICANT FOR A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT; TO MODIFY THE AUTHORITY OF MAGISTRATES AND JUDGES TO ISSUE ORDERS OF INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT; AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A PILOT PROGRAM FOR A CO-RESPONDER PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**FIREARM SAFETY INSTRUCTION**

**SECTION 1.(a)** Subsection (c) of G.S. 143B-1209.100 is amended by adding two new subdivisions to read:

"(12) Develop, in consultation with any local or State entity the Center for Safer Schools deems necessary to consult with, firearm safety instruction for students that meets all of the following requirements:

a. The instruction shall teach students all of the following:

1. Safe storage and handling of firearms, including instruction on (i) loading and unloading a firearm, (ii) using the safety on a firearm, and (iii) determining if a firearm is loaded or unloaded.

2. How to avoid injury if the student finds a firearm.

3. To never touch a found firearm.

4. To immediately notify an adult of the location of a found firearm.

5. How to provide basic first aid and how to contact emergency services.

b. The instruction shall be viewpoint neutral on political topics, such as firearm rights, firearm violence, and the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

c. The instruction shall not include the use or presence of live ammunition, live fire, or live firearms.

d. The instruction shall be age- and grade-appropriate.



1 e. The instruction required under this subdivision shall be provided in a  
2 classroom setting by a live instructor who is an active or retired law  
3 enforcement officer or is certified by the North Carolina Criminal  
4 Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, the United  
5 States Concealed Carry Association, or the National Rifle Association.

6 (13) Develop, in consultation with any local or State entity the Center for Safer  
7 Schools deems necessary to consult with, instruction for students on  
8 de-escalation techniques for conflict or other stressful situations. The  
9 instruction shall meet all of the following requirements:

10 a. The instruction shall be viewpoint neutral on political topics.

11 b. The instruction shall be age- and grade-appropriate.

12 c. The instruction required under this subdivision shall be provided in a  
13 classroom setting by a live instructor who is a behavioral or mental  
14 health professional who has training or experience working with  
15 adolescents and children."

16 **SECTION 1.(b)** Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
17 adding a new section to read:

18 **"§ 115C-105.50. Firearm safety and de-escalation instruction.**

19 (a) Requirement. – Each public school unit shall require each school under its control to  
20 provide annually to its students the firearm safety and de-escalation instruction developed under  
21 subdivisions (12) and (13) of subsection (c) of G.S. 143B-1209.100. The instruction required  
22 under this section shall begin in kindergarten.

23 (b) Opt out. – The parent or legal guardian of a student subject to instruction under this  
24 section shall be allowed to opt out of either or both the firearm safety and de-escalation  
25 instruction on behalf of the student. A request to opt out only applies to the school year in which  
26 the request is made and the parent or legal guardian must renew the request for each school year  
27 the parent or legal guardian wants the student to opt out of either or both the firearm safety and  
28 de-escalation instruction. The State Board of Education shall establish the process for submitting  
29 a request to opt out of the instruction required under this section."

30 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 115C-76.25(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to  
31 read:

32 "(13) The right to opt out of either or both the firearm safety and de-escalation  
33 instruction for their child pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.50(b)."

34 **SECTION 1.(d)** The Center for Safer Schools and the State Board of Education may  
35 use the procedure set forth in G.S. 150B-21.1 to adopt or amend any rules necessary to implement  
36 the provisions of this act.

37 **SECTION 1.(e)** The instruction required under G.S. 115C-105.50, as enacted by  
38 Section 2 of this act, shall be provided beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

39 **SECTION 1.(f)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Center for Safer  
40 Schools the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in nonrecurring funds for the  
41 2026-2027 fiscal year to be used to cover any costs associated with developing the instruction in  
42 accordance with subdivisions (12) and (13) of subsection (c) of G.S. 143B-1209.100, as enacted  
43 by Section 1 of this act.

44 **SECTION 1.(g)** Subsection (f) of this section becomes effective July 1, 2026. The  
45 remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.

46  
47 **CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT/ALLOW STATEWIDE SEARCH OF**  
48 **INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT RECORDS**

49 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 14-415.14(c) reads as rewritten:

50 "(c) Any person or entity who is presented by the applicant or by the sheriff with an  
51 original or photocopied release form as described in G.S. 14-415.13(a)(5) shall promptly disclose

1 to the sheriff any records concerning the mental health or capacity of the applicant who signed  
2 the form and authorized the release of the records. A clerk of court who is presented with an  
3 original or photocopied release form as described in G.S. 14-415.13(a)(5) shall conduct an  
4 electronic Statewide search for, and promptly disclose to the sheriff, any records concerning the  
5 mental health or capacity of the applicant who signed the form and authorized the release of the  
6 records."

7 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 122C-54(d) reads as rewritten:

8 "(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any individual seeking confidential  
9 information contained in the court files or the court records of a proceeding made pursuant to  
10 Article 5 of this Chapter may file a written motion in the cause setting out why the information  
11 is needed. A district court judge may issue an order to disclose the confidential information  
12 sought if he finds the order is appropriate under the circumstances and if he finds that it is in the  
13 best interest of the individual admitted or committed or of the public to have the information  
14 disclosed.

15 Counsel for the respondent and counsel for the State in the commitment hearing may receive  
16 access to the court file without filing a motion or obtaining a court order. A judge presiding over  
17 a criminal case that initiated the Article 5 proceeding may have access to the file without filing a  
18 motion.

19 Judicial officials determining whether a criminal defendant may be released before trial  
20 pursuant to G.S. 15A-533 may have access to the defendant's records of proceedings made  
21 pursuant to Article 5 of this Chapter for the purposes of determining whether a criminal defendant  
22 has been involuntarily committed within the previous three years.

23 An applicant for a concealed handgun permit, or a sheriff, who presents an original or  
24 photocopied release form as described in G.S. 14-415.13(a)(5) may have access to the applicant's  
25 records of proceedings made pursuant to Article 5 of this Chapter for the purpose of determining  
26 the mental health or capacity of the applicant."

27 **SECTION 2.(c)** No later than the effective date of subsections (a) and (b) of this  
28 section, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop and implement a process or system  
29 that allows for an electronic Statewide search described in G.S. 14-415.14(c), as amended by  
30 subsection (a) of this section. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the  
31 Administrative Office of the Courts may use any funds available for the implementation or  
32 maintenance of eCourts to cover any costs incurred from developing and implementing a process  
33 or system in accordance with this subsection.

34 **SECTION 2.(d)** Subsections (a) and (b) of this section become effective December  
35 1, 2026, and apply to applications on or after that date. The remainder of this section is effective  
36 when it becomes law.

## 37 38 **MODIFY AUTHORITY OF MAGISTRATES AND JUDGES TO ISSUE ORDER FOR** 39 **INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT**

40 **SECTION 3.(a)** Article 18 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by  
41 adding a new section to read:

42 **"§ 7A-201. Involuntary commitments.**

43 (a) Authority. – Except as otherwise provided by law, if a magistrate or presiding judge  
44 over a civil or criminal matter has reasonable grounds to believe a party to a proceeding before  
45 the magistrate or judge meets the criteria for involuntary commitment under Part 7 of Article 5  
46 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes, the magistrate or judge shall be vested with the authority  
47 sua sponte to make findings of fact and issue a custody order in the same manner, upon the same  
48 grounds, and with the same effect as an order issued by a clerk or magistrate pursuant to  
49 G.S. 122C-261. Proceedings thereafter are in accordance with Part 7 of Article 5 of Chapter 122C  
50 of the General Statutes.

1       **(b) Recusal.** – A magistrate or judge who issues an order pursuant to subsection (a) of  
2 this section is disqualified from presiding over any other hearing pursuant to Part 7 of Article 5  
3 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes for a respondent who was the subject of the order issued  
4 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

5       **(c) Construction.** – Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, nothing  
6 in this section shall be construed as amending or otherwise altering the duties of a magistrate or  
7 judge set forth in Part 7 of Article 5 of the General Statutes."

8               **SECTION 3.(b)** G.S. 122C-261(e) reads as rewritten:

9       **"(e)** Except as provided in subdivision (5) of subsection (d) of this section, upon receipt  
10 of the custody order of the clerk or ~~magistrate or magistrate~~, a custody order issued by the court  
11 pursuant to G.S. 15A-1003, or a custody order issued pursuant to G.S. 7A-201, a law  
12 enforcement officer, person designated under G.S. 122C-251(g), or other person identified in the  
13 order shall take the respondent into custody within 24 hours after the order is signed, and proceed  
14 according to G.S. 122C-263. The custody order is valid throughout the State.

15       Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, in no event shall an individual known or  
16 reasonably believed to have an intellectual disability be admitted to a State psychiatric hospital,  
17 except the following:

- 18               (1) Persons described in G.S. 122C-266(b).
- 19               (2) Persons admitted pursuant to G.S. 15A-1321.
- 20               (3) Respondents who are so extremely dangerous as to pose a serious threat to the  
21 community and to other patients committed to non-State hospital psychiatric  
22 inpatient units, as determined by the Director of the Division of Mental  
23 Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services or the  
24 Director's designee.
- 25               (4) Respondents who are so gravely disabled by both multiple disorders and  
26 medical fragility or multiple disorders and deafness that alternative care is  
27 inappropriate, as determined by the Director of the Division of Mental Health,  
28 Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services or the Director's  
29 designee.

30       Individuals transported to a State facility for individuals with mental illnesses who are not  
31 admitted by the facility may be transported by appropriate law enforcement officers or designated  
32 staff of the State facility in State-owned vehicles to an appropriate 24-hour facility that provides  
33 psychiatric inpatient care.

34       No later than 24 hours after the transfer, the responsible professional at the original facility  
35 shall notify the petitioner, the clerk of court, and, if consent is granted by the respondent, the next  
36 of kin, that the transfer has been completed."

37               **SECTION 3.(c)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2026, and applies to  
38 proceedings on or after that date.

#### 40 **PILOT CO-RESPONDER POLICE PROGRAM**

41               **SECTION 4.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
42 Public Safety for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium the nonrecurring sum of four  
43 hundred seventy-four thousand six hundred eighty dollars (\$474,680) to allocate to each county  
44 in this State in equal amounts to use to fund pilot program co-responder models designed to  
45 integrate mental health professionals with law enforcement responding to mental health related  
46 calls by people in distress needing assistance. The funds shall be used to hire and integrate within  
47 the law enforcement agency of each locality identified below one full-time mental health  
48 professional to be paired with law enforcement, either on a dedicated team or as part of a  
49 specialized unit, in responding to calls and incidences identified as involving mental health crises  
50 or persons with mental health issues.

51               **SECTION 4.(b)** This section is effective retroactive to July 1, 2025.

1

2 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

3 **SECTION 5.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes

4 law.